

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 06382 211725Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-13 /090 W

----- 122088

P R 211551Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9680

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 6382

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, UR

SUBJECT: VINOGRADOV VISIT TO SYRIA

1. SUMMARY: VINOGRADOV APPARENTLY BROKE NO NEW GROUND IN DISCUSSING SOVIET VIEWS WITH SYRIANS ABOUT URGENT NEED FOR CONVENING MEPC. LEBANESE CRISIS WAS DISTINCTLY SIDE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET MEPC REPRESENTATIVE VINOGRADOV VISITED DAMASCUS SEPT 17-20. HE MET SEPT 18 AND AGAIN ON SEPT 20 WITH FONMIN KHADDAM AND HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH KHADDAM'S DEPUTY, RAFI'I. ONE SOURCE STATES HE ALSO MET WITH ASAD BUT, IF SO, THIS HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED LOCALLY.

3. VISIT RECEIVED MODERATE PRESS COVERAGE WHICH INITIALLY DESCRIBED PURPOSE OF VISIT AS DISCUSSION OF THE "MIDDLE EAST CRISIS" AND GENEVA MEPC. DEP FONMIN RAFI'I TOLD PRESS THAT FIRST KHADDAM MEETING INCLUDED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON GENERAL AREA SITUATION AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT LEBANON. SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY SEPT 20 REFERRED TO PRAVDA CALL OF  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 06382 211725Z

PREVIOUS DAY APPEALING FOR CONVENING OF GENEVA SOONEST

TO DISCUSS GENERAL PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AREA. PRAVDA REPORTEDLY NOTED THAT CONTINUATION OF THE LEBANESE CRISIS UNDERLINED PRESSING NEED FOR CONFERENCE.

4. DAMASCUS RADIO SEPT 20 STATED THAT IN THEIR SECOND MEETING KHADDAM DISCUSSED WITH VINOGRADOV SOVIET EFFORTS TO CONVENE MEPC. SYRIAN FONMIN REPORTEDLY REITERATED THAT SYRIAN POSITION REMAINED BASED ON TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND PLO PARTICIPATION AS A FULL MEMBER IN CONFERENCE.

5. AMBASSADOR ASKED DEPFONMIN RAFI'I EVENING SEPT 20 ABOUT TALKS AND HOW VINOGRADOV HAD RELATED LEBANESE CRISIS TO GENEVA CONFERENCE. RAFI'I REPLIED THAT MOST OF DISCUSSIONS HAD IN FACT FOCUSED ON SOVIET IDEAS ABOUT GENEVA. VINOGRADOV'S REFERENCES TO LEBANON HAD BEEN IN PASSING; SOVIET MERELY NOTED THAT GENEVA COULD OFFER SETTING FOR RESOLUTION OF LEBANESE CRISIS AS PART OF OVERALL AREA SOLUTION. RAFI'I STATED THAT VINOGRADOV HAD DWELT AT LENGTH ON SOVIET PROPOSAL OF A TWO-STAGE CONFERENCE WITH PLO PARTICIPATING FULLY IN BOTH THE FIRST PREPARATORY SESSION AND THE LATER FULL CONFERENCE.

6. DIRECTOR OF WEST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS JOUAYJATI COMMENTED TO DCM THAT SYRIANS BELIEVED SOVIETS FOUND IT EASIER TO TALK OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH SYRIANS THAN OTHER SUBJECTS AT THIS JUNCTURE WHEN SYRIAN/SOVIET RELATIONS ARE UNDER STRAIN OWING TO SOVIET CRITICISM OF SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON.

7. ACCORDING TO RAFI'I, VINOGRADOV RETURNED TO MOSCOW EVENING SEPT 20 AND DID NOT VISIT ANY OTHER AREA CAPITALS ON HIS PRESENT TOUR.

8. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD NO SPECIAL REASONS FOR THE TIMING OF VINOGRADOV'S VISIT. COMING AS IT DID AT POINT WHEN LEBANESE CRISIS IS STILL AT HIGH BOIL AND ON EVE OF UNGA MAY BE SUFFICIENT EXPLANATION.  
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC06382  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760356-0817  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760938/aaaabgmw.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VINOGRADOV VISIT TO SYRIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, UR, (VINOGRADOV)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006